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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,606	01/17/2007	Gotz Burgfels	P-1271	2879
68072	7590	10/02/2009		
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EXAMINER JOHNSON, KEVIN M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1793				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/02/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/551,606

Applicant(s)

BURGFELS ET AL.

Examiner

KEVIN M. JOHNSON

Art Unit

1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-28 and 35-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-28 and 35-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/12/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 35-41, in the reply filed on 6/16/2009 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the amended claims do not lack a special technical feature, and therefore the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. This argument is persuasive because zeolite meeting the requirements shared by the claims, specifically a ZSM-12 type zeolite with the required crystal size and specific volume is not expressly known in the art.

The restriction requirement mailed 3/20/2009 is withdrawn. Claims 16-28 and 35-63 are pending and presented for examination.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on 4/1/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the DE 10314753.5 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 5/1/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

4. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to

comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification are: the references to claims in the specification, especially as the referenced claims have been cancelled (p. 3, 5, etc.).

Claim Objections

5. Claim 49 is objected to because of the following informalities: "claims 45".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 16 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims require a specific volume of 30-200 mm³/g "with a pore radius range of 4-10 nm." However, this requirement is inconsistent with the specification and the other claims, see claim 36 specifically. From the disclosure it appears that the claims should properly require a specific volume of 30-200 mm³/g *in* a pore radius range of 4-10 nm, and for the purposes of examination the claims have been interpreted in this manner.

In regard to claim 16, the claim requires that the solid produced by the process is utilized to produce ZSM-12 type zeolite, but the solid is a result of the crystallization of the ZSM-12 type zeolite. It is unclear how the ZSM-12 zeolite can be used to form a

ZSM-12 zeolite, as at that stage of the process the ZSM-12 zeolite has already been formed.

8. Claim 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In regard to claim 17, the claim refers to the molar ratio " $M_{n/2}O:SiO_2$ " where the rest of the disclosure refers to the molar ratio $M_{2n}O:SiO_2$. It is not possible to determine the subject matter of the claim, as the required ratio is inconsistent with the broader disclosure. For the purposes of examination the claim has been interpreted as requiring a molar ratio of $M_{2n}O:SiO_2$.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 & 35 USC § 112

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. Claims 56-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

11. Claims 56-63 provide for the use of the catalyst of claim 42, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 56-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

14. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

15. Claims 16-19, 21-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katovic et al. (Chemistry Express, 1991, Vol. 6, No. 12, pp. 969-972) in view of Rosinski et al (US 3832449) and Kuhl (US 4552739).

In regard to claim 16, Katovic teaches a method of synthesizing ZSM-12 zeolites. The method comprises mixing an aluminum source, a sodium source, precipitated silica as a silicon source, water and TEABr to form a hydrogel system. The hydrogel is crystallized under static conditions at autogeneous pressure in autoclaves (p. 969). The solid produced was ZSM-12 zeolite. Katovic only contemplates a single $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{SiO}_2$ molar ratio of 20 (abstract). The required $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{SiO}_2$ molar ratio is not disclosed by Katovic, and Katovic is silent as to the properties of the produced ZSM-12 zeolite. Stirring the mixture during the crystallization process is not disclosed by Katovic.

Rosinski discloses a method for producing ZSM-12 zeolite. In an exemplary embodiment of the process an $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{SiO}_2$ molar ratio of 13.5 was employed in the reaction mixture (example IV).

Kuhl teaches that when crystallizing ZSM-12 zeolites the reaction mixture may be either static or stirred (column 3, lines 31-32).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize a $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{SiO}_2$ molar ratio in the range required by the claims in the reaction mixture disclosed by Katovic. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Rosinski that ZSM-12 reaction mixtures may utilize $\text{H}_2\text{O}:\text{SiO}_2$ molar

ratios of 13.5 (example IV). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to stir the ZSM-12 reaction mixture utilized by Katovic during the crystallization process. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Kuhl that ZSM-12 reaction mixtures may be stirred during crystallization (column 3, lines 31-32). As the process disclosed by the prior art meets all the limitations of the process in the instant claim, and utilizes the same materials, the zeolite produced by the process would necessarily exhibit the properties required by the instant claim.

In regard to claim 17, Katovic discloses a $M_{2n}O:SiO_2$ ratio of 0.1 (sample 4).

In regard to claim 18, Katovic discloses a $SiO_2:Al_2O_3$ ratio of 100 (sample 4).

In regard to claim 19, the crystallization in the process disclosed by Katovic occurs at 150-170°C (p. 969).

In regard to claim 21, Katovic discloses a crystallization time of 6 days, or 144 hours (fig. 10).

In regard to claim 22, Rosinski teaches that the solid is washed, dried and calcined at 1000°F (example IV). The calcination takes place over a period of 5 hours (example I).

Kuhl teaches that the dried zeolite product is sized prior to calcination at 600°C (example 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to wash, dry, comminute and then calcine the solid produced by the process as required by the instant claims. Such a modification would have been motivated by

the teaching in Rosinski that the solid may be washed, dried and calcined at a temperature of 1000°F for a period of 5 hours (example I), and the teaching in Kuhl that the solid ZSM-12 product may be sized, or comminuted, prior to calcination (example 2).

In regard to claim 24, Rosinski teaches that the material may be ion exchanged with an aqueous solution of ammonium chloride, and then calcined (example IX).

Kuhl teaches that after ion exchanging the material it is washed, dried and then calcined (examples 2 and 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to ion exchange the material with an ammonium compound, and then wash, dry and calcine the resulting product. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Rosinski that the material may be ion exchanged with an aqueous solution of ammonium chloride, and then calcined (example IX), and the teaching in Kuhl that after ion exchanging the material it is washed, dried and then calcined (examples 2 and 3).

In regard to claim 25, Rosinski teaches that ZSM-12 zeolites may be molded, by methods including extrusion (column 6, lines 11-14).

In regard to claim 26, Rosinski discloses that a binder may be added to the zeolite material to form a composite. The aluminosilicate preferably accounts for 20-50 wt-% of the resulting composite (column 6, line 63 - column 7, line 2). The binder would then account for 50-80 wt-% of the composite material.

In regard to claims 27 and 28, Rosinski teaches that a form of the ZSM-12 product that incorporates platinum is particularly useful (column 3, line 61 – column 4, line 22).

In regard to claims 35-41, the process of the prior art, Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl, is the same as the process utilized to produce the zeolite product of the instant claims, and therefore would necessarily produce the same product. For a detailed discussion of the synthesis process see the rejection of claims 16-28.

In regard to claim 42, Rosinski teaches that the ZSM-12 zeolite may be employed as a catalyst for the conversion of organic compounds (column 4, lines 23-25).

In regard to claim 43, Rosinski teaches that ZSM-12 zeolites may be molded, by methods including extrusion (column 6, lines 11-14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the extruded material may be considered to be in lump form.

In regard to claim 44, Rosinski discloses that a binder may be added to the zeolite material to form a composite. The aluminosilicate preferably accounts for 20-50 wt-% of the resulting composite (column 6, line 63 - column 7, line 2). The binder would then account for 50-80 wt-% of the composite material.

In regard to claims 45-48, Rosinski teaches that a form of the ZSM-12 product that incorporates platinum is particularly useful as a catalyst (column 3, line 61 – column 4, line 22).

In regard to claim 50, Rosinski teaches a method for converting an organic feed stream by charging the feed stream over a catalyst containing a ZSM-12 type zeolite (example X).

In regard to claims 51, 54 and 55, Rosinski teaches a process for the hydroisomerization of normal paraffins utilizing the ZSM-12 catalyst. The process takes place at a temperature of 300-550°F, with a liquid hourly space velocity of 0.01-2 in the presence of hydrogen (column 7, lines 30-35). The pressure at which the process is performed is not disclosed, and is therefore considered to be atmospheric pressure. The hydroisomerization of higher paraffins is not expressly disclosed. A process for the production of olefins from straight chain hydrocarbon compounds produces a significant amount of C₅⁺ gasoline and therefore the organic feed stream must contain higher paraffins (example X and XII).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the hydroisomerization treatment disclosed by Rosinski to treat higher paraffins. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Rosinski that the process is useful for the treatment of normal paraffins, and that the zeolite catalyst is useful for the treatment of straight chain compounds with a chain length greater than C₅ (examples X and XII).

In regard to claim 53, Rosinski teaches that the catalyst may be used for aromatic hydroisomerization (column 7, lines 36-38).

In regard to claim 56, Rosinski teaches that the catalyst may be used

16. Claims 20 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl as applied to claims 16 and 45 above, and further in view of Sumitani et al. (US 4557919).

In regard to claim 20, Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl fail to teach the extent of the washing process.

Sumitani discloses a process for producing ZSM-12 zeolites in which the produced zeolites are washed with pure water until the ion conductivity of the wash water is less than 50 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (column 8, lines 40-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to wash the material produced by Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl with water until the conductivity of the wash water was in the range required by the instant claim. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl that the zeolite product is washed and the disclosure in Sumitani that ZSM-12 zeolites are preferably washed with pure water until the ion conductivity of the wash water is less than 50 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ (column 8, lines 40-43).

In regard to claim 49, Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl fail to disclose the amount of catalytically active component contained in the catalyst.

Sumitani discloses a platinum containing catalyst, where the platinum accounts for 0.01-5 wt-% of the catalyst composition (column 11, lines 22-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a catalytically active component in the amount required by the

instant claim. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Sumitani that ZSM-12 containing catalysts beneficially contain a catalytically active component, such as platinum, in an amount of 0.01-5 wt-% of the catalyst composition (column 11, lines 22-25).

17. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl as applied to claim 51 above, and further in view of Monque et al. (US 5576256).

In regard to claim 52, Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl fail to disclose the use of n-octane in a hydroisomerization process.

Monque discloses a hydroisomerization process that utilizes a ZSM-12 containing catalyst (column 3, lines 36-40) and for the treatment of an n-octane feed stream (column 7, lines 56-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize an n-octane feed stream in the hydroisomerization process disclosed by Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl. Such a modification would have been motivated by the teaching in Monque that ZSM-12 containing catalysts, the type utilized by Katovic, Rosinski and Kuhl, are especially suited for the treatment of n-octane.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN M. JOHNSON whose telephone number is (571)270-3584. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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